

WHAT WE CLAIM ARE:

1. A semiconductor wafer device comprising:

a semiconductor wafer having a circuit area disposed in a central area of said semiconductor wafer and a peripheral area of said semiconductor wafer not formed with circuits;

a number of semiconductor elements formed in the circuit area;

a multi-layer wiring structure formed in the circuit area and having multi-layer wirings connected to said semiconductor elements and interlevel insulating films, at least some of the multi-layer wirings being damascene wirings including wiring patterns and via conductors embedded in the interlevel insulating films; and

a multi-layer structure formed in the peripheral area, having insulating films made of a same materials as the interlevel insulating films and conductor patterns made of same materials as the wiring patterns, and not having conductor patterns corresponding to the via conductors.

2. The semiconductor wafer device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the interlevel insulating films and at least one of the insulating films corresponding to at least one layer of the multi-layer wirings each includes a first etching stopper layer, a first insulating layer, a second insulating layer and a third insulating layer, the wiring patterns and the conductor patterns are disposed in grooves formed through the third and second insulating layers, and the via conductors are disposed in holes formed through the first insulating layer and the first etching stopper layer.

3. The semiconductor wafer device according to claim 2, wherein the second

of the second insulating layer.

9. The semiconductor wafer device according to claim 2, wherein said multi-layer wiring structure has lower level wiring patterns formed under the first etching
5 stopper layer and made of oxidizable metal.

10. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor wafer device, comprising the steps of:

(a) forming lower wiring patterns over a semiconductor wafer having
10 semiconductor elements formed in a circuit area, the lower wiring patterns being connected to the semiconductor elements;

(b) forming an interlevel insulating film over the semiconductor wafer, the interlevel insulating film covering the lower wiring patterns and having a planarized surface; and

(c) forming via conductors connected to the lower wiring patterns,
15 wiring patterns disposed on the via conductors in the circuit area and conductor patterns made of a same material as the wiring patterns in a peripheral area other than the circuit area, by embedding the via conductors, wiring patterns and conductor patterns in the interlevel insulating film, the conductive patterns being
20 electrically isolated.

11. The method of manufacturing a semiconductor wafer device according to claim 10, wherein:

said step (b) includes a step of sequentially laminating a first etching
25 stopper layer, a first insulating layer having a planarized surface, a second insulating layer and a third insulating layer; and

5 said step (c) includes a step (c-1) of selectively removing the third and second insulating layers to form wiring pattern grooves in the circuit area and conductor pattern grooves in a peripheral area other than the circuit area, a step (c-2) of forming holes through the first insulating layer and the first etching stopper layer in the circuit area, each hole extending from a bottom of the wiring pattern groove to the lower wiring pattern, and a step (c-3) of filling conductors in the wiring pattern grooves, holes and conductor pattern grooves.

10 12. The method of manufacturing a semiconductor wafer device according to claim 10, wherein:

15 said step (b) includes a step (b-1) of laminating a first etching stopper layer and a first insulating layer, a step (b-2) of polishing the first insulating layer to planarize an upper surface of the first insulating layer, and a step (b-3) of laminating a second insulating layer and a third insulting layer on the planarized surface; and

20 said step (c) includes a step (c-1) of forming holes through the first insulating layer and first etching stopper layer in the circuit area to expose surfaces of the lower wiring patterns, after said step (b-2), a step (c-2) of filling via conductors in the holes, a step (c-3) of selectively removing the third and second insulating layers to form wiring pattern grooves exposing surfaces of the via conductors in the circuit area and conductor pattern grooves in a peripheral area other than the circuit area, after said step (b-3), and a step (c-4) of filling conductors in the wiring pattern grooves and conductor pattern grooves.

25 13. The method of manufacturing a semiconductor wafer device according to claim 11, wherein:

said step (b) includes a step (b-1) of laminating an etching stopper layer and a first insulating layer, a step (b-2) of planarizing an upper surface of the first insulating layer, and a step (b-3) of laminating a second insulating layer having a lower dielectric constant than silicon oxide on the planarized first insulating layer
 5 and a third insulating layer having a dielectric constant higher than the lower dielectric constant; and

said step (c) includes a step of covering an outermost side wall of the second insulating layer with the third insulating layer or the conductor.

10 14. The method of manufacturing a semiconductor wafer device according to claim 11, wherein:

said step (b) includes a step (b-1) of forming a first insulating layer having a lower dielectric constant lower than silicon oxide, a step (b-2) of removing the first insulating layer in the peripheral area, and a step (b-3) of forming a second
 15 insulating layer having a dielectric constant higher than the lower dielectric constant on the semiconductor wafer; and

said step (c) includes a step of covering an outermost side wall of the first insulating layer with the second insulating layer or the conductor.

20 15. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor wafer device, comprising the steps of:

(a) forming a first insulating layer having a lower dielectric constant than silicon oxide over an underlying structure including a semiconductor wafer;

(b) removing the first insulating layer in a peripheral area of the
 25 semiconductor wafer;

(c) forming a second insulating layer having a higher dielectric

constant than the first insulating layer, the second insulating layer covering an outermost side wall of the first insulating layer;

(d) forming wiring grooves at least through the second insulating layer;

5 (e) forming a conductive layer on the second insulating layer; and

(f) polishing the conductive layer to leave wiring patterns in the wiring grooves and to form a configuration wherein an outermost side wall of the first insulating layer is covered with the second insulating layer or the conductive layer.

10 16. The method of manufacturing a semiconductor wafer device according to claim 15, wherein said step (d) leaves the second insulating layer covering the outermost side wall of the first insulating layer, and said step (f) covers the outermost side wall of the first insulating layer with the second insulating layer.

15 17. The method of manufacturing a semiconductor wafer device according to claim 15, wherein said step (d) exposes the outermost side wall of the first insulating layer outside the wiring grooves, said step (e) forms the conductive layer which is thicker in a peripheral area than in a central area of the semiconductor wafer, and said step (f) leaves the conductive layer covering the outermost side
20 wall of the first insulating layer.

18. The method of manufacturing a semiconductor wafer device according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

(g) forming an etching stopper layer and a lower insulating layer
25 before said step (a); and

(h) forming via holes continuous with the wiring grooves through the

lower insulating layer and the etching stopper layer.

19. The method of manufacturing a semiconductor wafer device according to claim 18, further comprising a step of:

- 5 (h) planarizing the lower insulating layer after said step (g), wherein said steps (e) and (f) form damascene wirings.

20. The method of manufacturing a semiconductor wafer device according to claim 15, wherein the first insulating layer having the lower dielectric constant is
10 one of a coating type insulating layer, a silicon oxide film containing fluorine or carbon, and a porous insulating layer.

21. A semiconductor wafer device, comprising:

- an underlying structure including a semiconductor wafer;
15 a first insulating layer having a lower dielectric constant than silicon oxide and formed over said underlying structure in an area excepting a peripheral area of said underlying structure;
a second insulating layer having a dielectric constant higher than said first insulating layer and formed on said first insulating layer;
20 wiring grooves formed at least through said second insulating layer;
patterns of conductor filled in said wiring grooves; and
said second insulating layer or a layer of a same material as the conductor covering an outermost side wall of said first insulating layer.

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